



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
WWW.USPTO.GOV

Paper No. 10

Brian D. Voyce, ESQ.
8401 STERLING BRIDGE ROAD
CHAPEL HILL NC 27516

COPY MAILED

AUG 11 2004

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Michael A. Harvey et al.
Application No. 09/927,965
Filed: August 10, 2001
Title: LATERAL FLOWER PLASMA
SEPARATION DEVICE

DECISION ON RENEWED PETITION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.137(B)

This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR §1.137(b)¹, filed July 26, 2004, to revive the above-identified application.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the non-final Office action, mailed June 11, 2003, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No response was received, and no extensions of time under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) were requested. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on September 12, 2003. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on January 13, 2004.

On January 14, 2004, the original petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(a) was received, which was dismissed via the mailing of a decision on February 25, 2004 for failure to establish that the delay was unavoidable.

With the instant petition, Petitioner has submitted an amendment.

¹ A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

- (1) The reply required to the outstanding Office action or notice, unless previously filed;
- (2) The petition fee as set forth in § 1.17(m);
- (3) A statement that the entire delay (i.e. the period from August 31, 1995 until the filing of a grantable petition) in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional, and;
- (4) Any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in § 1.20(d)) required pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section.

It is noted that with the renewed petition, Petitioner has submitted a check in the amount of \$650, and has not provided an authorization to charge any deficient fees to a deposit account.

The decision of February 25, 2004 set a two-month period for reply. The renewed petition contains a certificate of mailing dated July 26, 2004, but fails to contain a petition for an extension of time. As such, the response is not timely, and cannot be considered.

Furthermore, the fee for filing a petition to revive an unintentionally abandoned application under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b) is set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(m) as being \$665.00 for a small entity. Petitioner included \$650. Therefore, requirement number (2) has not been met.

The payment of the required petition fee is a prerequisite to the filing of a petition to revive under 37 C.F.R. §1.137. Therefore, consideration of the merits of the petition before receipt of the filing fee would be premature. See M.P.E.P. 711.03(c)(III)(B)²

In view of the above, this petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any reply must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) are permitted. The reply should include a cover letter entitled "Second Renewed Petition Under 37 C.F.R. 1.137(b)". This is not a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C 704.

The renewed petition should display "Please deliver to Paul Shanoski, c/o Office of Petitions" in a prominent manner.

To help assure prompt and proper attention to your response, please see Request for Alert Concerning Submitted Petitions, 1282 Official Gazette (May 18, 2004) for further information on how to assist the Office in delivering your submission to the correct location. The Petitioner may wish to consider telephoning the undersigned one month after the submission is made to confirm that the documents were properly delivered.

Any renewed petition may be submitted by mail³, hand-delivery⁴, or facsimile⁵.

The application file will be retained in the Office of Petitions for two (2) months.

² "[T]he payment of a petition fee to obtain the revival of an abandoned application is a statutory prerequisite to revival of the abandoned application and cannot be waived. In addition, the phrase '[o]n filing' in 35 U.S.C. §41(a)(7) means that the petition fee is required for the filing (and not merely the grant) of a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.137. See H.R. Rep. No. 542, 97th Cong., 2nd Sess. 6 (1982), *reprinted in* 1982 U.S.C.C.A.N. 770 ('[t]he fees set forth in this section are due on filing the petition'). Therefore, the Office...will not reach the merits of any petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.137 lacking the requisite petition fee."

³ Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

⁴ Customer Window, Mail Stop Petition, Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

⁵ (703) 872-9306 - please note this is a central facsimile number, and as such, there will be a delay in the delivery of the facsimile to the undersigned, which could be as much as one month.

Telephone inquiries regarding *this decision* should be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-0011. Please note that on approximately September 28, 2004, the Office of Petitions will relocate to the new PTO location in Alexandria. Although the mailing address will remain the same, the general phone number for the Office of Petitions which should be used for status requests will change to 571-272-3282, and the telephone number for the undersigned will change to 571-272-3225.



Paul Shanowski
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions
United States Patent and Trademark Office